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Dr. Corse exhibited a specimen of morbid growth of hair upon the cornea of an ox.

Dr. Leidy mentioned, in explanation of this monstrosity, that the hairs in the specimen were the result of the excessive development of very minute hairs naturally existing at the inner canthus of the eye, in connection with the caruncula lachrymalis, and corresponding with the nictitating membrane.

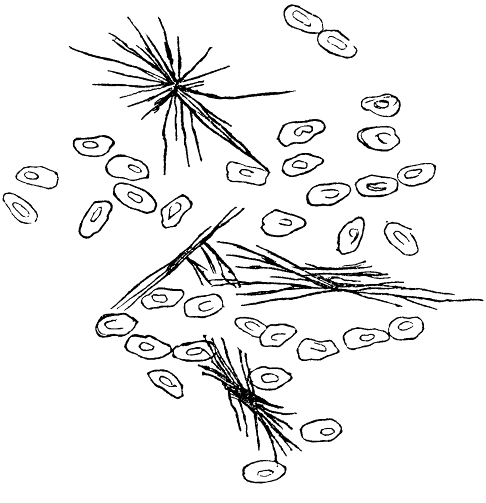
Dr. Hammond stated that he had been requested by the " *Verein für gemeinschaftliche Arbeiten*" to present to the Department the new forms of "*Krankheits Tabelle*" issued by the *Verein*, and to desire some action of the Department thereupon. A Committee was appointed upon the subject, consisting of Drs. Hammond, Woodward and H. Hartshorne.

On the Secondary Formation of Blood Crystals.

BY WILLIAM A. HAMMOND, M. D.

Assistant Surgeon, United States Army.

A few days ago, whilst viewing a slide on which I had four years since mounted some blood-discs of a common prairie snake, (*Eutainia elegans*) I was surprised to find scattered amongst their corpuscles a number of well marked acicular crystals, most of them connected in groups, and radiating from a centre as shown in the drawing.



I had not inspected this slide for about five months, and at that time I am confident the crystals were not present. I had constantly before been in the habit of looking at these corpuscles, but had never previously perceived crystals.

This is the second time it has occurred to me to discover crystals on slides containing blood-discs which must have been formed at a considerable period after the preparation of the specimen. The first instance was on a slide on which were mounted blood-corpuscles of the soft-shell turtle, (*Trionyx ferox*). Crystals were found on this, some months after it was prepared. On a previous occasion, I mentioned this circumstance to the Department.

The discs in both cases were mounted dry, and covered with paper in the usual manner. They were obtained by the ordinary process. The slides, previously to the mounting, were well washed in water, and subsequently in ether, as were also their glass covers.

The crystals are in too small a quantity to definitely determine their nature, but I presume them to be hæmatoidin. They approach somewhat in form to a set of figures of this substance given by Funke, in his Atlas, but its crystaltine characters are so various, that it is difficult to establish its presence from them alone.

It is probable that if the members would go over carefully with the microscope, their specimens of blood-corpuscles, especially those of reptiles, they might also meet with instances such as the foregoing, and that the cause of the formation of blood-crystals at so advanced a period, after the mounting of the corpuscles and their apparently thorough drying, might be thereby discovered.

The accompanying drawing was made by the Camera Lucida. The discs and crystals are magnified 300 diameters.

Oct. 4th. The General Committee of the Department presented a partial report, relating to its organization, in compliance with the regulation therefor, and the preparation of a series of questions for investigation. The questions were referred again to the Committee, with directions to add to their number, and report to a future meeting.

Oct. 18th. Dr. Morris exhibited a young Emys ,having a hernial protrusion, which appeared to be at the point of connection with the umbilical vesicle. The most interesting feature of the specimen was its early stage of development, illustrating the period of transition of cartilage into bone.

Dr. Woodward mentioned, that since the time of his remarks to the Department in regard to pus-corpuscles, he had had no less than ten opportunities of examining pus under somewhat similar circumstances to those then alluded to ; the pus having found its way into urine, in which it remained for several hours. He had, in all these instances, found that on *one side* (seldom on both) an elevation of the cell-wall took-place, which he referred to endosmose.

Dr. Leidy remarked, that these facts agreed with his own observations ; as he had never recognized the adherence of the granules of the pus-corpuscle to the cell-wall, and considered the diagnosis of the pus-corpuscle, based upon this adherence, to fail altogether.

Drs. Woodward and Leidy further agreed in the view that no positive diagnostic exists between exudation-corpuscles and pus-corpuscles ; that proposed, for example, in regard to the number of nuclei, being quite insufficient. Dr. Woodward favored the opinion of Carl Wedl, that the pus-corpuscle is a pathological deformation of the white corpuscle of the blood.

A discussion also took place in regard to the existence of *mucus-corpuscles* in the mouth, &c.

Dr. Leidy considered these to be normally present in the fluids of the mouth, as he had constantly found them in his own saliva, during perfect health.

Drs. Hammond, Mitchell and Morris adhered to the same conclusion. If the saliva be collected in a test tube, and the mucus be allowed to separate from the secretion of the true salivary glands, the mucus-corpuscles will be found in abundance.

Dr. Atlee mentioned the statement of some observers, that they were found in the saliva of domestic animals, but not in that of the wild.

Passing to the subject of *cancer*, Dr. Leidy alluded to some preparations which he had seen in the valuable collection of Kiernan, in which the structure of the tumor having been by a peculiar process removed from the vessels, the latter, in many instances, presented a marked *spiral* arrangement ; the cancers having been obtained from all parts of the body, and being of various magnitudes.

Dr. H. Hartshorne inquired whether the mode of separation might possibly account for this appearance of the vessels ?

Dr. Woodward mentioned that the wood cuts in Carl Wedl's "Rudiments of Pathological Histology" show a splendid arrangement of the vessels in a number of new formations, cancerous and otherwise.

The Report of the General Committee was presented by its Recorder, Dr. Walter F. Atlee, and adopted.

The subjects recommended by the Committee for immediate investigation are the following ;

1. The formation of fat in the bodies of animals, when fed only on food containing no oleaginous matter.
2. The changes occurring in the excreta during fevers and inflammations.
3. The exact cause and nature of the rigor mortis.
4. The influence of the alkaloids, morphia, quinia, cinchonia and strychnia, upon the metamorphosis of tissue.
5. The circumstances which determine the existence of sugar in the blood, and which occasion its presence in the urine.
6. The physiological position of the blood-fibrin.
7. The elimination of ammonia from the lungs in health and disease.
8. The absorption of muscular fibre ; in which portion of the alimentary canal is it effected ?
9. The statistics of height, weight, &c., of the human race in North America.
10. The variations in the amount of ozone in the atmosphere, and their connection with epidemics.
11. The influence of ingesta on the composition of milk.
12. The existence of an epithelium in the air-vesicles of the human lung.
13. The comparison of mucus, pus and exudation-corpuscles, &c., with each other, and with the white corpuscles of the blood, and their relation to epithelial structures.
14. The minute anatomy of nerves and nerve-centres.

Other subjects, which had been proposed to the Committee, were also reported as appropriate for future investigation.

A member of the Department was named in connection with each of the above subjects, to act as Chairman or Director of a voluntary committee of such members, or others, as may desire to take part in their investigation.

On the adoption of the Report, a brief discussion occurred, as to the propriety of publishing the above list of subjects, in anticipation of the accomplishment of results. It being understood, however, that the object in view was to invite and encourage joint labor, which, without some publicity, would be impossible, authority was given for printing one hundred copies of the Report for the use of the members.

Nov. 1st. Dr. J. J. Woodward read a paper entitled "Remarks on a remarkable form of the basic Phosphate of Ammonia and Magnesia occurring in the urine of a patient suffering under cancer of the bladder." The committee on Organic Chemistry, to which this paper was referred, reported in favor of its publication in a medical journal to be selected by the author.

Dr. Hammond read the following paper :

On the Action of certain Vegetable Diuretics.

BY WILLIAM A. HAMMOND, M. D.

Assistant Surgeon U. S. Army.

The ensuing investigations consist mainly of repetitions of those performed some years since by Krahmer, and subsequently by Bird. They have reference to the appreciation of the influence of squill, juniper, digitalis and colchicum, over the quantity of the urine, its specific gravity and the amount of its solid